

CLAIMS

1. A process for producing solubilized keratin, which comprises regulating the water content of keratin raw material to a hydrous state of 20 to 80%, hydrolyzing the same in an alkali solution, neutralizing the hydrolyzate liquid, and extracting a keratin hydrolyzate from the supernatant.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein a cleaned keratin raw material is used.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali concentration is 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.

4. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the hydrolyzing process is executed in the condition of 80 to 120°C and 1 to 16 hours.

5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein peroxide is used in the neutralizing step.

6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the keratin raw material is either wool or feathers.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the wool or feathers is clothes or bedding containing them, or waste wool or waste feathers.

8. A solubilized feather keratin having an average molecular weight of 8000 to 13000 (gel filtration method) and manufactured by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 7 using feathers as keratin raw material.

9. A cosmetic blend composed of the solubilized keratin manufactured by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 8.